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Limit on signs at town entrances urged

By John Chaffee
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DUXBURY — A local official wants to take down all the roadside signs at the entrances to town and cut back on the number of signs promoting special events.

Director of Inspectional Services Richard MacDonald said last night he favors having one town-owned sign listing local service clubs and organizations and providing space for special-event promotions.

"I'd like to recommend to the selectmen something that's agreeable to all, aesthetically pleasing to all and which maintains the beauty of the town," MacDonald said at a meeting of local organizations concerned about signs.

Bill Houghton, representing the Duxbury Rotary Club, agreed with MacDonald's proposal.

Selectmen declared war on signs in June when they rejected a request from the First Parish Church to erect Unitarian-Universalist signs at town entrances, then rejected a Duxbury Art Association banner promoting

an art show.

MacDonald said, "A lot of signs that are showing up are not allowed," under "confusing" town protective bylaws. Free-standing signs, such as sandwich board signs promoting special events, require approval from the zoning board of appeals, and private signs cannot be placed on public

property without the selectmen's approval.

"Any of these signs, whether they need a special permit or not, require a permit from me, and that's just not happening," MacDonald said.

He said he'll draft a sign proposal for selectmen to consider next month.